

Hendon striker John Baker (9) makes a crash landing as Johnny Wilson (second left) attempts a header during a skirmish in front of the Wycombe goal following a corner.



Dark-shirted Rod Haider (right) has a shot saved by goalkeeper John Maskell (left).



IS SUBSTITUTE RULE BEING ABUSED?

Hendon (0) 0 Wycombe Wanderers (1) 1
(Attendance: 1,014)

THE biggest cheer of the afternoon at Hendon on Saturday was reserved for Paul Collett when he was called on in the 63rd minute to substitute for Peter Smith against Wycombe Wanderers. It was a move which nearly paid off. Within a minute flame-haired Collett was in the thick of a goalmouth skirmish. He nodded back an Anderson corner to Bobby Wilson, who had a snorting header brilliantly saved by Wycombe's goalkeeping hero John Maskell, writes Fred Harris.

But the substitution was met with murmurs of discontent by members of the Wycombe committee, who thought that Smith, called off by manager Ron Patterson, was not injured.

According to Isthmian League doctrine, substitutes must only be used when a player is injured!

"All member clubs pledged to adhere to the ruling," said Wycombe committee member

Percy Pearce, who alleged that it was being abused by many managers.

I must confess that Smith did not look at all injured when he trotted off, a little unhappy perhaps, to watch the remainder of the game from the touchline bench.

After the game, coach Patterson said he was fully aware of the Isthmian's substitute law, adding that Smith, in fact, had foot trouble.

But I think that the League ruling, pathetically out of step with the Football Association, who have allowed substitution for any reason for the past two years, is being abused.

The sooner the Isthmians fall into line the better it will be for all concerned, with managers being able to pull off out-of-salt players with a clear conscience.

Feeble attack

The Hendon attack spluttered feebly against a formidable rearguard in the first half and was thwarted by the brilliance of Maskell after the interval. As a result Hendon crashed to their second league defeat of the season and slid to 12th in the table — their lowest ever in the Isthmian campaign.

Hendon, who suffered a double defeat at the hands of Wycombe last season, were stunned by a 19th-minute goal from Welsh amateur international George Anthony.

An entertaining first-half performer, Anthony caught Haider at full stretch as centre-forward Vince Faulkner flicked down a centre from Len Worley, and the Welshman cracked home his shot just inside the left-hand post.

Lucky Smith

Peter Smith, previously pulled up for attempting an angry looking tackle from behind on Anthony, was spoken to by the referee just before the interval for kicking the ball away in disgust. He was lucky not to have been booked.

In the second half Wycombe lost international winger Len Worley, who was limping badly. He was replaced by Viv Busby, who could have celebrated with a brace of goals had he been more agile. It was during the time that Hendon had left their defence rather thin as they committed themselves to attack in an effort to save a point.

Besides Maskell, Wycombe had another strong man in defence — skipper John Delaney, who joined them this season from Slough.

Hendon: J. Swannell, D. Greenwood, M. Cooper, D. Shaddock, L. Cannon, A. Haider, P. Anderson, A. Wilson, J. Baker, P. Smith, J. Wilson. Substitutes: P. Collett, J. Wilson. Wycombe Wanderers: J. Rundle, C. Gale, J. Lally, J. Delaney, K. Samuels, L. Worley, B. Baker, V. Faulkner, A. Horniman, G. Anthony. Substitutes: V. Busby.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

SENIOR SECTION									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Sutton United	10	7	2	1	35	6	16		
W. Wanderers	11	6	3	2	19	9	15		
Leytonstone	11	5	4	2	22	9	14		
Clapton	10	6	2	2	23	15	14		
Enfield	9	5	3	1	12	5	13		
Oxford City	9	5	2	2	12	8	12		
Hitchin Town	11	4	4	3	20	16	12		
Wealdstone	10	4	3	3	20	12	11		
Barking	11	4	3	4	22	18	11		
St. Albans C.	10	5	1	4	17	15	11		
Kingstonian	11	4	3	4	13	14	11		
Hendon	9	3	4	2	19	11	10		
T'ing & M.U.	8	3	0	5	13	11	9		
Woking	10	4	0	6	11	13	8		
Waltham A.	11	3	2	6	15	20	8		
Maidstone U.	10	2	1	7	15	20	7		
Ilford	10	2	3	5	9	19	7		
Bromley	10	3	1	6	10	34	7		
Dulwich Ham.	11	1	4	6	8	21	6		
Corinthian-C.	11	0	0	11	8	37	0		

ATHENIAN LEAGUE